Overview

Policy

The Arizona WIC Program will operate a retail purchase food delivery system for all categories of participants.

The State Agency is responsible for the financial management of, and accountability for, the food delivery system under its jurisdiction.

The State Agency will maintain a uniform food delivery system and food instruments to be used by the Local Agencies within its jurisdiction. The State Agency will ensure that the program's supplemental foods are accessible to low-income individuals free of charge.

All contracts entered into by the State or Local Agencies for the management or operation of the food delivery system will conform to federal and state regulations.

The Arizona WIC Program uses the Arizona In Motion (AIM) automation system to print food instruments at Local Agency WIC clinics, and produce reports related to certification and food delivery.

The Arizona WIC Program Policy and Procedure Manual shall be the authority which governs the operation of the Arizona WIC Program and those Local Agencies under its jurisdiction.

Continued on Next Page

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Overview (Continued)

In this Chapter

This chapter is divided into fourteen (14) sections which detail food instrument types, food instrument issuance, food instrument security and accountability, mailing of food instruments, and AIM automation training manuals, and three (3) appendices.

Contents

Section	Title	Page Number
Α	Single Signature Food Instrument	5-3
В	Frequency of Issuance	5-4
С	Food Instrument Issuance	5-7
D	Food Issuance Pickup/Redemption	5-9
Е	Missed Appointments and Food Package Proration (Late Pickup)	5-10
F	Accountability for Food Instruments	5-11
G	Food Instrument Security	5-13
Н	Questionable Food Instrument Issuance	5-15
1	Reconciliation and Auditing	5-16
J	Reconciliation and Auditing/Voided Food Instruments	5-17
K	Monitoring of Food Instruments	5-18
L	Lost/Stolen Food Instruments	5-19
М	Mailing of Food Instruments	5-22
N	AIM User's Training Manual	5-27
Appendix A	Food Instrument	5-28
Appendix B	State Agency Shipment Report	5-32
Appendix C	Lost/Stolen Food Instrument Report	5-34

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Section A Single Signature Food Instrument

Automated Food Instruments

- The Arizona In Motion (AIM) automation system produces a single signature food instrument (see example, Appendix A) for Local Agency use
- The AIM automated single signature food instruments are computer generated and contain all participant and food package information

Note: The banking contractor produces a second food instrument type for use by the State Agency. These food instruments are used to replace rejected food instruments submitted by Vendors for second level review.

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Section B Frequency of Issuance

Policy

The State Agency will establish uniform procedures for food instrument issuance. The procedures will be detailed in the food instrument processing section of the AIM User's Training Manual.

Local Agencies will establish clinic schedules. Food instruments will be issued to participants/authorized representatives during these scheduled clinic hours.

Food instruments may be issued monthly, bi-monthly or tri-monthly, according to the participants nutritional risk and needs.

When issuing food instruments, the Local Agency will follow the separation of duties procedures as outlined in Section F.

Early Issuance

To accommodate participant needs, food instruments may be issued early. Participants/authorized representatives will not redeem any food instrument before the 'first date to use.' Each food package is designed to supplement the nutritional needs of the participant for a 30-day period.

Note: The Vendor will not be paid if the food instrument is cashed before the 'first date to use.'

Continued on Next Page

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Section B Frequency of Issuance (Continued)

Bi-Monthly and Tri-Monthly Issuance

Participants may be issued two (2) or three (3) sets of food instruments during one clinic visit. Bi-monthly or tri-monthly issuance diminishes barrier of service by allowing the client to come into the clinic less often, yet still receive quality care, as well as allowing an increase in caseloads without diminishing services.

Bi-monthly or tri-monthly issuance may be allowed for high-risk participants when the Local Agency has developed a written policy defining use. It will be at the discretion of the Local Agency Nutritionist, and should be based on review and dietary assessment of the individual, and development of the high-risk care plan that addresses the nutritional need of the participant.

- Current participation in a comprehensive prenatal or special needs service program
- Serious medical condition that necessitates bed rest, limited mobility

and

Approval recommended by the agency's Registered Dietitian

Continued on Next Page

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Section B Frequency of Issuance (Continued)

Early Issuance of Bi-Monthly and Tri-Monthly

Issue bi-monthly or tri-monthly food instruments according to the instructions in the AIM User's Manual.

Participants/authorized representatives who are issued bi-monthly or tri-monthly food instruments may have a "Do Not Use These Checks Until..." form filled out and filed in the centralized file established by the Local Agency. If used, WIC staff will:

- Have the participant/authorized representative sign and date the form. If food instruments are to be mailed, the WIC staff must document the date and who discussed the form with the participant/authorized representative
- File the completed form in the clinic's centralized file
- Instruct the participant/authorized representative not to cash food instruments until on or after the 'first date to use' printed on the food instrument

Place any food instruments, which are issued early, into the envelope provided by the State Agency for that purpose. The 'first date to use' should be noted on the envelope and the envelope should be sealed.

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Section C Food Instrument Issuance

Procedures

On their assigned pick up day, participants/authorized representatives will be issued food instruments based on nutritional risk and dietary assessment, monthly, bi-monthly or tri-monthly.

At each clinic visit, Local Agency staff will document in the client's AIM automated record, the code number of the food package issued, and whether it is a single, bi-monthly or tri-monthly issuance.

At the clinic, participants/authorized representatives will sign (in ink) the following:

 WIC ID folder/transfer card at certification or re-certification, as applicable

and

 The food instrument signature page to acknowledge receipt of the food instrument(s). The signed signature page will be placed in the centralized file as established by the Local Agency

Mailing Food Instruments

Under certain conditions, food instruments can be mailed as outlined in Section M.

Continued on Next Page

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Section C Food Instrument Issuance (Continued)

Exception to Issuance

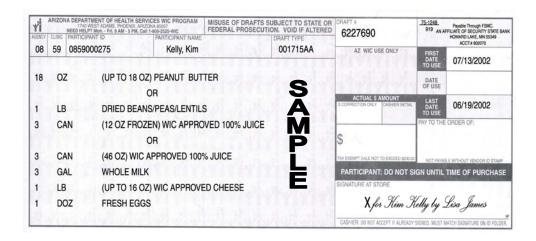
If the participant, authorized representative or proxy is unable to write their name:

- At the Local Agency the person will mark "X" on the WIC ID folder/transfer card, or the Proxy Certification form and the food instrument signature page as applicable
- The Local Agency staff member will verify the individual's mark by writing "for (participant's name) by (Local Agency staff member's name)" and signing their own name and
- The Local Agency staff member will instruct the individual to repeat the above procedure at the store
- At the store The person will mark "X" in the signature box of the food instrument after the amount of the purchase has been entered. The cashier will verify the individual's mark by writing "for (participant's name) by (cashier's name)" and signing their own name using the same procedure as the Local Agency (see example below)

Note: If a WIC participant/authorized representative or proxy is blind, the "X" signature process can be used.

Note: Failure to follow these procedures <u>exactly</u> will result in the Vendor not being paid for the foods on that specific food instrument.

Example "X" Signature



Chapter Five

Food Instrument Issuance and Accountability

Section D Food Instrument Pick Up/Redemption

Policy

Participants in the Arizona WIC Program are responsible for following program policies and procedures regarding food instruments.

Procedures Training

When issuing food instruments to participants, Local Agency staff will provide training to participants/authorized representatives on program requirements to prevent program errors or abuse and to improve services:

- During the first visit of each certification period and
- When a violation of any program requirement is committed and
- As needed

Documentation

The following will be documented in the 'Care Plan Follow-Up/Nutrition Education' field in the participant's record in AIM:

 All training/education provided on program requirements and regulations

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

- Any violations committed by the participant/authorized representative
- All actions taken

Section E Missed Appointments and Food Package Proration (Late Pick Up)

Policy

In order to serve the maximum number of eligible individuals, the Arizona WIC Program will serve participants who miss scheduled appointments.

Procedure

If a participant/authorized representative cannot keep the original appointment, the Local Agency will make available another appointment within seven (7) calendar days of the request for a new appointment. A participant/authorized representative will receive the entire food package as long as the food instruments are within valid "use" dates. There will not be a prorating of the food package.

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Section F Accountability for Food Instruments

Food Instrument Security

Each Local Agency will submit their Policy and Procedures regarding food instrument security procedures by July 1 of each year. The procedures must state clearly who is responsible for food instrument security from the time the Local Agency receives their food instrument supply shipment until the food instruments are issued to the participant/authorized representative (See Separation of Duties below).

Management Evaluation

Food instrument issuance and security procedures will be assessed biennially during the Management Evaluations.

Separation of Duties

Local Agencies will separate staff duties pertaining to the following area of responsibilities:

- Participant certification and food instrument issuance
- Food instrument stock control

Procedure

Local Agencies will designate one staff member to certify participants, and another staff member to issue food instruments.

Example: The CNW position would determine the participant's eligibility and prescribe food packages. The clerk position would issue the food instrument.

Local Agencies will designate one staff member to receive and inventory the food instrument stock, and another staff member to maintain the perpetual inventory of the food instrument stock.

Example: One staff member would receive food instrument stock shipments and perform the physical inventory of the food instrument stock. A different staff member would keep the perpetual inventory log.

Continued on Next Page

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Section F Accountability for Food Instruments (Continued)

Exception

In small or satellite clinics where only one person is staffing a clinic, separation of duties may not be possible. In this instance, Local Agencies will have written, state approved policies and procedures that establish quality assurance standards and a regular monitoring system.

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Chapter Five

Food Instrument Issuance and Accountability

Section G Food Instrument Security

Policy

Food instruments are negotiable instruments and must be handled with the same care given to cash.

Automation Contractor's Responsibilities

The automation contractor will generate and distribute consignment numbers to the Local Agencies.

State Agency Responsibilities

The State Agency will keep an inventory of AIM food instrument stock paper and toner cartridges.

The State Agency will send orders to a central location in each Local Agency and clinics will receive their orders from this central location.

Local Agency Responsibilities

Local Agency staff are responsible for ordering, distributing and maintaining an inventory of AIM supplies:

- Food instrument stock paper
- MICR printer cartridges

Assigned staff will receive the AIM supplies and must review the contents received to verify that the items have been received in good condition.

Staff will then sign and date the verification and receipt of paper and/or toner cartridges on the State Agency Shipment Report. According to the Local Agency's protocol, a completed copy will be faxed to the state office within 24 hours of receipt and kept on file.

Any discrepancies regarding the order must be reported immediately to a supervisor and noted on the form. The supervisor will call the State Agency to resolve any discrepancies.

AIM supplies that are sent to the Local Agency will be added to the master inventory list and then stored in a locked area until they are transferred to a clinic.

Continued on Next Page

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Section G Food Instrument Security (Continued)

Transferring AIM Supplies Within Local Agencies

Each clinic will identify staff authorized to receive food instrument stock paper.

All supplies will be added to the master inventory for the clinic and stored in a locked area until used.

Local Agency Security

Each clinic will ensure that the food instrument stock paper and supplies are kept in a locked storage area whenever staff is not present in the clinic, including lunch, breaks and after hours.

Inventory Log

Required documentation in the inventory log will include the following:

- Date received from the State Agency
- Contents of package verified
- Date food instrument stock paper was distributed to the Local Agency clinic
- Signature/initials of staff member who distributed/sent the food instrument stock paper to the clinic

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

REVISION: OCTOBER 2005

5-14

Section H Questionable Food Instrument Issuance

Policy

The State Agency will ensure that all cashed food instruments are validly issued.

Procedures

Before any food instruments are printed, the participant must be certified and in a current certification period.

No manual food instruments are issued to participants.

Food instruments will be reconciled monthly against the AIM automated Food Instrument Issuance Report.

The AIM automation system will match all cashed food instruments to the Issuance Record. In the event that the system cannot identify a match, a report will be generated that will list all food instruments cashed, but not issued. The State Agency will review and research the information identified on this report monthly and will work with the Local Agency staff to ensure that a valid issuance record exists for each food instrument.

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Section I Reconciliation and Auditing

AIM Automation System Capabilities

The AIM automated system will accurately document the disposition of all food instruments as issued, voided, redeemed or not cashed within 67 calendar days from the first date to use that is printed on the food instrument.

During the end of day process, the AIM automated system will void (as "Stale Dated") all food instruments that have not been cashed, 67 days past the first date of use that is printed on the food instrument.

Note: The AIM automation system is designed to prevent food instruments from being issued to individuals outside of a valid certification.

Each Local Agency clinic is assigned food instrument serial numbers that are unique to that clinic, and are automatically assigned to each food instrument that is printed, to prevent duplication of food instruments.

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Section J Reconciliation and Auditing Voided Food Instruments

Voided Food Instruments

Food instruments that cannot be issued are to be voided by stamping "VOID" across the whole face, being reconciled by the supervisor, and then shredded.

Policy

Food instruments that are returned due to a change of food package, returned unused, invalid due to system errors, or cannot be issued, are to be voided and filed for reconciliation by the supervisor.

Procedure

Once the stamped, voided food instrument serial number(s) are recorded as "voided" in the AIM automated system, the supervisor will reconcile the voided instrument(s) to the Food Instrument Issuance Report at a minimum of once a week. After the reconciliation is completed, the supervisor will sign and date the report. The signed report will be maintained on file for review during Management Evaluations. The voided food instruments can then be shredded.

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Section K Monitoring of Food Instruments

Policy

Food instrument security is a critical component of the Arizona WIC Program, and the ability to manage related supplies is imperative.

An accurate inventory must be maintained at all times. Perpetual and periodic physical inventories will be conducted monthly.

Food Instrument Security Protocol

Each Local Agency will have a food instrument handling protocol, with appropriate inventory forms and records. The protocol will include a set of instructions for staff to follow in order to maintain food instrument security.

The protocol will clearly identify who is responsible for the security of food instruments from the time food instrument stock is received, until they are issued. The protocol also dictates how the issuance information is reviewed and stored.

Each Local Agency will ensure that the staff members who are responsible for issuing/voiding food instruments do not conduct the inventory by themselves.

The protocol will be incorporated into the Local Agency's Policy and Procedure Manual.

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Section L Lost/Stolen Food Instruments

Policy

Food instruments are to be treated the same as cash and will not be replaced when lost, stolen or destroyed. However, Local Agencies have the option of writing procedures for replacing food instruments that were reported as lost or stolen, and then recovered during the issue month. The food instrument must be returned to the clinic and voided before a replacement can be issued.

Exception

Food instruments lost in the mail can be replaced. Local Agencies will write procedures for replacing food instruments sent by certified mail that were later reported and verified to be lost in the mail.

Procedures For Participant

Participants/authorized representatives must immediately report the loss or theft of food instruments to the Local Agency.

They will advise the participant/authorized representative to notify the clinic if the food instruments are found and that they cannot redeem food instruments that have been reported lost or stolen. They must be replaced.

If it is established that the participant/authorized representative actually redeemed the food instrument(s) reported lost/stolen, the participant/authorized representative must be counseled and or disqualified.

If the food instrument(s) reported lost/stolen are redeemed by someone other than the participant/authorized representative, the Local Agency will report the information to the State Agency for follow-up action.

Continued on Next Page

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Section L Lost/Stolen Food Instruments (Continued)

Procedure for Staff

The Local Agency will immediately report the loss/theft to the state by faxing the Lost/Stolen Food Instrument Report form (see Appendix C) to the WIC Program Integrity Team at (602) 542-1890.

The following information must be provided:

- Whether the food instrument was lost or stolen (If lost, were they lost in the mail?)
- Date reported to the Local Agency
- Food instrument serial number(s)
- Participant's name and identification number
- Food instrument type(s)
- Action taken and
- Other relevant information

The loss or theft of food instruments will be documented in the participant's AIM automation record in the notes box on the family information screen.

Food instruments that have been reported by the participant/authorized representative will not be voided as lost/stolen in the AIM automation system by the Local Agency.

Continued on Next Page

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Section L Lost/Stolen Food Instruments (Continued)

Procedures
For Local
Agency Loss
of Stock Paper or
Food Instruments

Local Agencies that lose food instrument stock paper, food instruments or have these items stolen will:

- Report the theft to the police and
- Report in writing the loss/theft to the WIC Program Integrity Team at (602) 542-1890. All losses or thefts will be documented containing the following information:
 - > Whether the food instruments were lost or stolen
 - Date noted by the Local Agency
 - Food instrument serial number(s)
 - Food instrument type(s)
 - Other relevant information

Note: The written report will be the official record of the loss/theft. If the lost/theft is reported by fax, the fax will be considered the official record.

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Chapter Five

Food Instrument Issuance and Accountability

Section M Mailing of Food Instruments

Policy

The Local Agency will have state approved policies and procedures in place before mailing food instruments.

The Local Agency may approve the mailing of food instruments when participants/authorized representatives are encountering extreme difficulties in personally obtaining food instruments.

The Local Agency will maintain adequate documentation/inventory of all food instruments issued by certified mail and procedures for replacement of food instruments lost or stolen when sent by mail.

To ensure nutrition education and certification contacts, not more than three (3) sets of food instruments (one (1) set per mailing) will be mailed to a participant within six (6) months.

Early Issuance procedures will be followed.

Procedures

When the Local Agency approves the mailing of food instruments, staff will:

- Document the reason for mailing the food instruments in the participant's AIM automation record.
- Acceptable reasons include:
 - > Employment
 - Illness
 - > Imminent childbirth
 - Inclement weather conditions
 - Lack of transportation
 - Physical disability preventing travel
 - Temporary power outages and other computer related problems in the clinic

Continued on Next Page

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Section M Mailing of Food Instruments (Continued)

Mailing Procedures

Local Agency staff will:

- Inform eligible WIC participants/authorized representatives that food instruments should be picked up at the Local Agency clinic, if at all possible. This is an effort to coordinate food delivery with nutrition education and other health services
- Notify the client that only three (3) sets of food instruments (one (1) set per mailing) can be mailed to them within a six (6) month period
- Follow the Early Issuance procedures under the Food Instrument Issuance section of this chapter
- Document in the 'Care Plan Follow-Up/Nutrition Education' field in the participant's AIM record, the food instrument serial numbers, certified mail number, and the date the food instruments were mailed
- Document on the food instrument receipt that the food instruments were mailed. Include the date mailed and the initials of the person that mailed them
- File the "certified return receipt" in the Local Agency centralized file when received
- Develop procedures for replacing food instruments reported as not being received and not reported lost, which includes how many times replacements will be made. Document the reason certified mail was returned, and ensure reason was not caused by participant/authorized representative's negligence (i.e., did not claim certified mail that was mailed to the correct address)

Continued on Next Page

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Section M Mailing of Food Instruments (Continued)

Mailing Procedures (Continued)

Local Agency staff will:

- Mail food instruments as follows:
 - Via Certified mail
 - Restrict delivery to person(s) authorized to receive the food instruments
 - Return receipt requested
 - Place in an envelope which prevents the identification of the food instruments and is sturdy enough to hold multiple food instruments
 - Stamp clearly, "DO NOT FORWARD—RETURN TO SENDER" on the front of the envelope
 - The return address will NOT identify the Local Agency or clinic as the sender
- Ensure security procedures for mailing food instruments, including:
 - Envelope preparation procedures (i.e., a two party system where one staff member prepares envelopes and another reviews them prior to sealing and mailing)
 - Assign staff member(s) who will have access to the food instruments during the process
 - Transfer to postal authority which includes the following:
 - (a) Assign staff member(s) who will be responsible
 - (b) Identify how the food instruments will be carried (i.e., mixed in with other mail)
 - > Identify how the food instruments will be transported

Continued on Next Page

Section M Mailing of Food Instruments (Continued)

Mailing Procedures (Continued)

Local Agency staff will:

- Maintain an accurate inventory and record of all mailed food instruments which includes:
 - Food instrument serial numbers mailed
 - Date mailed
 - Certified number
 - Participant and clinic name
 - Name of staff member who logged in certification information
 - Date "certified return receipt" (green card) was received and name of staff member who logged it in and date
 - Follow-up conducted on "certified return receipts" (green cards) not received
 - Date and name of staff member who conducted the followup
 - Disposition of food instruments—was "certified return receipt" (green card) located; certified mail was returned as undeliverable or food instruments were reported lost to state office
 - Date and name of staff member who ensured the food instruments were located, correctly voided or reported as lost, and correctly documented on the food instrument signature page(s) and in the participant's record(s)

Continued on Next Page

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Section M Mailing of Food Instruments (Continued)

- Maintenance of accurate records of returned food instruments which documents:
 - Date food instruments were picked up
 - Certified number
 - Participant and clinic name
 - Who picked up food instruments
 - Date certified envelope was opened and by whom
 - Participant ID number (if applicable)
 - Sequential serial numbers of all food instruments in envelope
 - Date of disposition and status (returned to inventory or voided)
 - Who conducted disposition
- The disposition of returned certified mail food instruments will be conducted immediately. However, when impossible to do so, food instruments are to be stored in a locked storage area

Monitoring of Mailed Food Instruments

The Local Agency WIC Director will conduct monthly reviews of mailed food instrument security to monitor compliance with the Local Agency policies and procedures and maintain documentation of the reviews and findings that will be available at the Management Evaluations.

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Section N AIM User's Training Manual

Policy

The AIM User's Training Manual procedures will be followed for:

- Generating automated food instruments
- Voiding food instruments
- Correcting data inaccurately input into the AIM system

Note: Local Agencies will keep their AIM User's Training Manual complete and up-to-date.

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Appendix A: Food Instrument

This page intentionally left blank. Food Instrument."	Insert example of the "New Arizona WIC Program

Appendix A: Food Instrument (Continued)

Front of Food Instrument

The food instrument issued to participants will provide the following information:

- Local Agency and clinic code
- Participant's identification number
- Participant's name
- Food instrument type code number
- Sequential serial number
- First date to use, date of use and last date to use
- Food authorized for purchase (quantity and brands)
- Maximum value of food instrument
- Space for the Vendor Identification Number
- Space for participant/authorized representative's signature in store

Use statements will be as follows:

- Need help? Mon. Fri. 8:00 AM 5:00 PM, Call 1-800-2525-WIC
- Misuse of drafts subject to State and Federal prosecution. Void if altered
- \$ Correction only
- Cashier initials
- Tax exempt sale not to exceed \$200.00
- Pay to the Order of
- Not payable without Vendor ID stamp
- Participant: Do not sign until time of purchase
- Cashier: Do not accept if already signed. Must match signature on ID folder

Continued on Next Page

Appendix A: Food Instrument (Continued)

Back of Food Instrument/Endorsement Information

Information provided on the back:

- For deposit only by an authorized Arizona WIC Vendor in payment for the foods purchased on the front of this document
- Vendor must deposit within sixty (60) calendar days from first date to use
- Do not write, stamp or endorse below this line

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997

Appendix B: State Agency Shipment Report

ORIGINAL: MARCH 1997 REVISION: OCTOBER 2005

STATE AGENCY SHIPMENT REPORT

	SHIPPED				RECEIVED	
	DATE		AMO	UNT	DATE	
ITEMS	SHIPPED	NUMBER	VERI	FIED	RECEIVED	INITIALS
Food Instrument Stock			Y	N		
MICR Printing Cartridges			Υ	N		
Farmers' Market Food Instrument			Y	N		

- Fax within 24 hours -

ATTENTION: Pat Melonzon (602) 542-1890

Appendix C: Lost/Stolen Food Instrument Report



Arizona WIC Program Lost/Stolen Food Instrument Report

Lost/Stolen	(F	Police report) Y	N
Date Reported	Reported By		
Participant's Name (Last)		(First)	
Participant's ID #	Food Pac	ckage	FI Type
FI Serial Number(s)		Issue Date	
		Issue Date	
Action Taken (with Participant):	Verbal Warning		
	Written Warning		
	Disqualified		
Local Agency Number		linic Number	
Comments			
Completed By(Sig	gnature of Clinic Staff)	Date:	
		Date:	
(Pri	int Name of Clinic Staff)		

Fax the completed form to the Arizona WIC Program Integrity Team at (602) 542-1890.